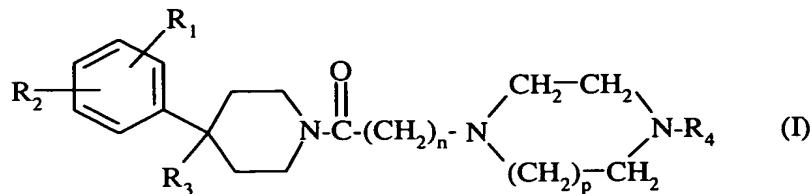


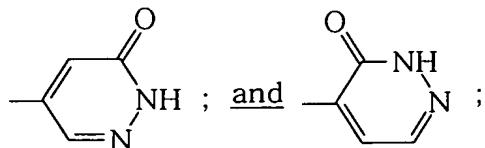
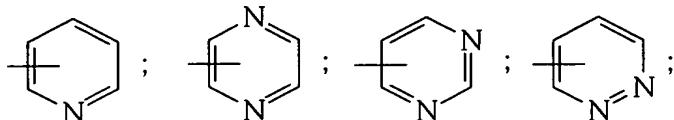
**Amendments to the Claims:**

1. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of the A compound of~~ formula (I):



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- p is 1 or 2;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; a group -OR<sub>5</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>; a group -NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>; a group -NR<sub>8</sub>COR<sub>9</sub>; a group -NR<sub>8</sub>CONR<sub>10</sub>R<sub>11</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>; a group -CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>8</sub>CONR<sub>14</sub>R<sub>15</sub>; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxycarbonyl; or a group -CONR<sub>16</sub>R<sub>17</sub>;
- or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;
- R<sub>4</sub> represents an aromatic group selected from:



- the said aromatic groups being unsubstituted or being mono- or disubstituted by a substituent selected independently from a halogen atom; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; and a trifluoromethyl radical;
- R<sub>5</sub> represents a hydrogen atom ; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkylcarbonyl;
- R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;
- R<sub>8</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

- R<sub>9</sub> represents a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>;

- m is 1, 2 or 3;

- R<sub>10</sub> and R<sub>11</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

- R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>)alkyl;

- R<sub>13</sub> may also represent a hydrogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl, a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-OH or a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-S-CH<sub>3</sub>;

- or else R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from aziridine, azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine and morpholine;

- q is 2 or 3;

- R<sub>14</sub> and R<sub>15</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

- R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub> represent each independently a hydrogen atom or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

- R<sub>17</sub> may also represent a hydrogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl, or a group -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>;

- or else R<sub>16</sub> and R<sub>17</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, constitute a heterocycle selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, morpholine and piperazine which is unsubstituted or substituted in position 4 by a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

~~in the form of a base or an acid addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate thereof.~~

2. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I) A compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein:~~

- R<sub>1</sub> is in position 2, 3 or 4 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a chlorine atom, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; or else R<sub>1</sub> is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R<sub>2</sub> is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom;

~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~
3. (Currently amended): ~~Compound of formula (I) A compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein:~~

- R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an (acetoxy)methyl, a hydroxymethyl, a dimethylamino, an acetylarnino, an aminomethyl, a (methylarnino)methyl, a (dimethylarnino)methyl, a (diethylarnino)methyl, an

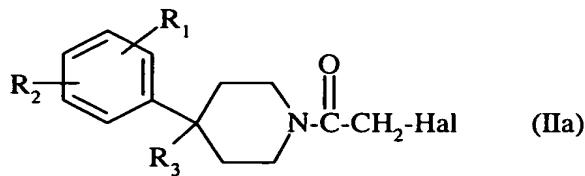
(isopentylamino)methyl, an (N-methylisopentylamino)methyl, an aminocarbonyl, or an azetidin-1-ylcarbonyl; or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~

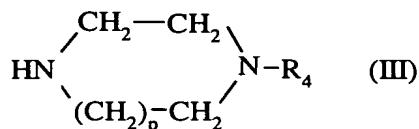
4. (Currently amended): Compound of formula (I) A compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein:
  - R<sub>4</sub> represents a 2-pyridyl, a 6-methyl-2-pyridyl, a 3-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-pyridyl, a 4-pyridyl, a 3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl, a 2-pyrazinyl, a 5-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-4-pyrimidinyl, a 5-pyrimidinyl, a 3-pyridazinyl, a 6-chloro-3-pyridazinyl, a 4-pyridazinyl, a 3(2H)-pyridazinone-5-yl or a 3(2H)-pyridazinone-4-yl;  
~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~
5. (Currently amended): Compound of formula (I) A compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein:
  - n is 1 or 2;
  - p is 1 or 2;
  - R<sub>1</sub> is in position 2, 3 or 4 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a chlorine atom, a methyl, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; or else R<sub>1</sub> is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R<sub>2</sub> is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom;
  - R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl, a methoxy, an (acetyloxy)methyl, a hydroxymethyl, a dimethylamino, an acetylarnino, an aminomethyl, a (methylarnino)methyl, a (dimethylarnino)methyl, a (diethylarnino)methyl, an (isopropylarnino)methyl, an (N-methylisopropylarnino)methyl; an (isobutylarnino)methyl; an (N-methylisobutylarnino)methyl, an (isopentylarnino)methyl, an (N-methylisopentylarnino)methyl, an aminocarbonyl, or an azetidin-1-ylcarbonyl; or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring;

- R<sub>4</sub> represents a 2-pyridyl, a 6-methyl-2-pyridyl, a 3-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl, a 3-pyridyl, a 4-pyridyl, a 3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl, a 2-pyrazinyl, a 5-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrazinyl, a 2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-2-pyrimidinyl, a 4-pyrimidinyl, a 6-chloro-4-pyrimidinyl, a 5-pyrimidinyl, a 3-pyridazinyl, a 6-chloro-3-pyridazinyl, a 4-pyridazinyl, a 3(2*H*)-pyridazinone-5-yl, or a 3(2*H*)-pyridazinone-4-yl;  
~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~

6. (Currently amended): Compound of formula (I) A compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein:
  - n is 1;
  - p is 1;
  - R<sub>1</sub> is in position 2, 3 or 4 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical, a chlorine atom, a methoxy or a trifluoromethoxy radical and R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom; or else R<sub>1</sub> is in position 3 of the phenyl and represents a trifluoromethyl radical and R<sub>2</sub> is in position 4 of the phenyl and represents a chlorine atom;
  - R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydroxyl, a dimethylamino, an aminomethyl, a (methylamino)methyl, a (dimethylamino)methyl, a (diethylamino)methyl, an (isopropylamino)methyl, an (isobutylamino)methyl, an (isopentylamino)methyl, an (N-methylisopentylamino)methyl or an aminocarbonyl; or else R<sub>3</sub> constitutes a double bond between the carbon atom to which it is attached and the adjacent carbon atom of the piperidine ring; and
  - R<sub>4</sub> represents a 2-pyrazinyl, a 4-pyrimidinyl, a 3(2*H*)-pyridazinone-5-yl or a 5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl;  
~~in the form of a base or an addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate.~~
7. (Currently amended): Process for preparing compounds of formula (I) A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which n = 1, characterized in that:
  - a) wherein a compound of formula (IIA)

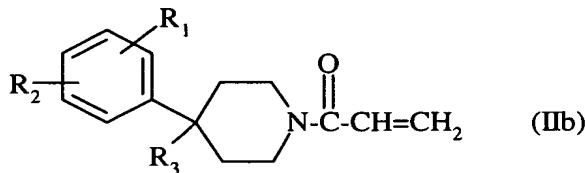


in which R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, preferably chlorine or bromine, with the proviso that when R<sub>3</sub> contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)

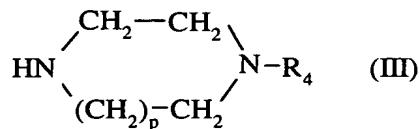


in which p and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1; b1) and, after and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R<sub>3</sub> where appropriate, the compound of formula (I) is obtained.

8. (Currently amended): ~~Process for preparing compounds of formula (I) A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which n = 2, characterized in that:~~  
 a2) wherein a compound of formula IIb



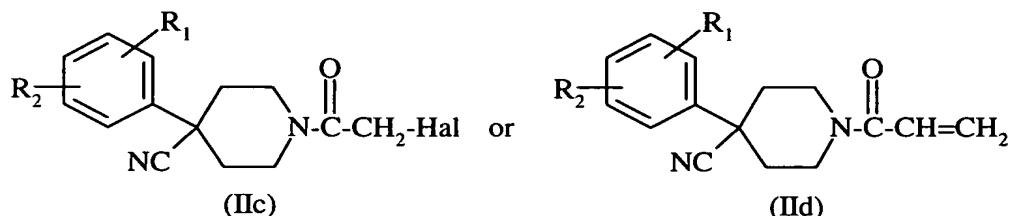
in which R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are as defined for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1, with the proviso that when R<sub>3</sub> contains a hydroxyl or amine function these functions may be protected, is reacted with a compound of formula (III)



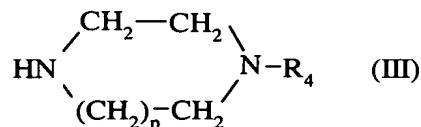
in which p and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1;

b2) and, after and deprotection of the hydroxyl or amine functions present in R<sub>3</sub> where appropriate, the compound of formula (I) is obtained.

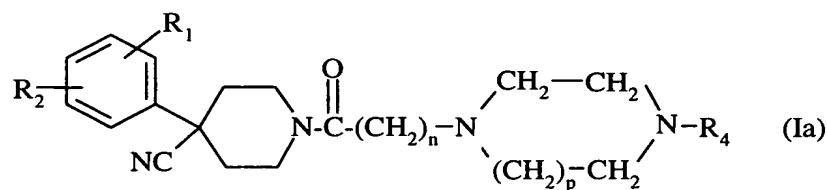
9. (Currently amended): Process for preparing compounds of formula (I) A process for preparing a compound according to Claim 1 in which R<sub>3</sub> represents a group – CH<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub> in which R<sub>12</sub> and R<sub>13</sub> each represent hydrogen, characterized in that:  
a3) wherein a compound of formula (IIc) or (IId)



in which R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are as defined for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1 and Hal represents a halogen atom, preferably chlorine or bromine; is reacted with a compound of formula (III).

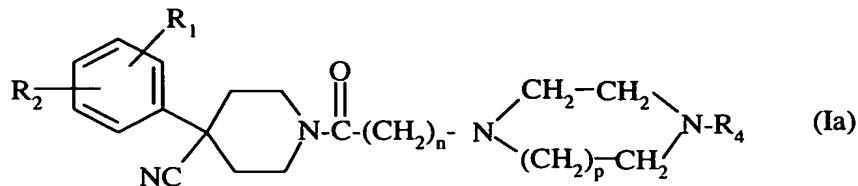


in which p and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined for a compound of formula (I) in Claim 1 to give a compound of formula (Ia)



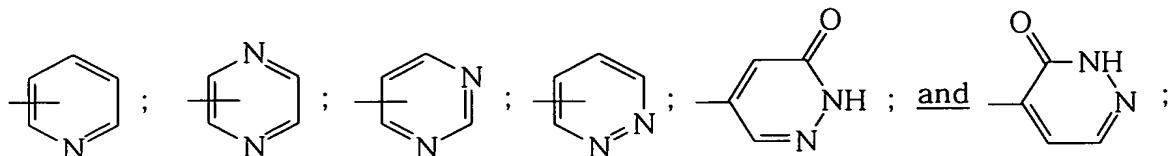
b3) and the cyano group of the compound of formula (Ia) is reduced to give a compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1 in which  $R_3 = \text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$ .

10. (Currently amended): Compound A compound of formula (Ia)



in which:

- n is 1 or 2;
- p is 1 or 2;
- R<sub>1</sub> represents a halogen atom; a trifluoromethyl radical; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl; a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy; or a trifluoromethoxy radical;
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;
- R<sub>4</sub> represents an aromatic group selected from:



the said aromatic groups being unsubstituted or mono- or disubstituted by a substituent selected independently from a halogen atom, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy, a trifluoromethoxy radical;  
in the form of a base or an acid addition salt with an acid, or in the form of a hydrate or solvate thereof.

#### Claims 11-13 (Cancelled)

14. (New) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:  
 1-[4-(aminomethyl)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
 5-[4-[2-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-oxoethyl]-1-piperazinyl]-3(2H)-pyridazinone;  
 1-[4-hydroxy-4-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
 2-[4-(4-pyrimidinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridyl]-1-ethanone;  
 2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-[4-[2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridyl]-1-ethanone;

1-[2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]acetyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-piperidinecarboxamide;  
1-[4-(dimethylamino)-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(dimethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-(4-chlorophenyl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-hydroxy-4-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[4-chloro-3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridyl]-2-[4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-pyridyl]1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(methylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(diethylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(isopropylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(isobutylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(isopentylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
1-[4-[(N-methylisopentylamino)methyl]-4-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone; and  
1-[4-hydroxy-4-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]-1-piperidyl]-2-[4-(2-pyrazinyl)-1-piperazinyl]-1-ethanone;  
or an acid addition salt, hydrate or solvate thereof.

15. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 3 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 4 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 5 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 6 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

21. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 14 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

22. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

23. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 2.

24. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 3.

25. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 4.

26. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 5.

27. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 6.

28. (New) A method for the treatment of central or peripheral neurodegenerative diseases; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis; cardiovascular conditions; peripheral neuropathies; damage to the optic nerve and to the retina; spinal cord trauma and cranial trauma; atherosclerosis; stenoses; cicatrization; alopecia; cancers; tumours; metastases; leukaemias; chronic neuropathic and inflammatory pain; autoimmune diseases; bone fractures; or bone diseases, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to Claim 14.